

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 32 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 17, 19-21, 26 and 29-31 as follows:

1. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing, comprising:

a lower container for holding water wherein at least a portion of said lower container has an open top to allow pets to drink from said lower container;

an upper reservoir for holding water located above said lower container;

a pump having a suction port and a discharge port wherein said suction port removes water from said container and said discharge port directs water to said upper reservoir;

a smooth and curved ramp having a top and a bottom and spaced apart sides and having a flat center portion disposed between said sides to support a stream of flowing water as the water moves from the upper reservoir at said top of said ramp to the lower container at said bottom of said ramp; and

a ledge attached to said upper reservoir having a curved lip and a curved cross sectional area wherein said curved lip creates a thick and smooth water flow upon exiting the upper reservoir to reduce noise and splashing and said curved cross sectional area directs the stream of flowing water onto the flat center portion of the curved ramp so as to contain the water flow on the ramp at all times to prevent splashing and noise as the water flows downward on said ramp.

2. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing as in claim 1, wherein said lower container includes a forward container and a rear container, said forward container having an open top to allow pets to drink from said forward container and said rear container being

a⁴ enclosed for maintaining said pump spaced apart from said forward container, wherein said pump is a submersible pump whereby all suction ports are submerged to reduce noise.

8. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing as in claim 1, wherein the upper reservoir comprises an overflow drain to direct excess water from said upper reservoir to said lower container to prevent the upper reservoir from overflowing.

10. (Amended) A continuous watering device for pets producing minimal noise and splashing, comprising:

a lower container for holding water wherein at least a portion of said lower container has an open top to allow pets to drink from said lower container;

an upper reservoir for holding water located above said lower container;

a⁶ a pump having a suction port and a discharge port wherein said suction port removes water from said container and said discharge port directs water to said upper reservoir;

a smooth and curved ramp having a top and a bottom and spaced apart sides and having a flat portion disposed between said sides to support a stream of flowing water as the water moves from the upper reservoir at said top of said ramp to the lower container at said bottom of said ramp;

a ledge attached to said upper reservoir having a curved lip and a curved cross sectional area wherein said curved lip creates a thick and smooth water flow upon exiting the upper reservoir to reduce noise and splashing and said curved cross sectional area directs the stream of flowing water onto the flat center portion of the curved ramp so as to contain the water flow on the ramp at all times to prevent splashing and noise as the water flows downward on said ramp; and

a⁶ a removable and portable storage reservoir further comprising a valve having an open position and a closed position wherein said valve is in the closed position when not installed on the continuous watering device so as to prevent water from leaking while said storage reservoir is being transported and said valve is in the open position when installed on the continuous watering device so as to continuously replenish and maintain a minimum water level in said lower container when water loss results from evaporation or drinking by pets.

a⁷ 17. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing as in claim 10, wherein said lower container includes a forward container and a rear container, said forward container having an open top to allow pets to drink from said forward container and said rear container being enclosed for maintaining said pump spaced apart from said forward container, wherein said pump is a submersible pump whereby all suction ports are submerged to reduce noise.

a⁸ 19. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing as in claim 10, wherein said lower container further comprises a pair of handles for carrying said continuous watering device.

20. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing, comprising:

a container for holding water wherein at least a portion of said container has an open top to allow pets to drink from said lower container;

a lift tube to transport water from said container;

a pump submerged under the water in said container to eliminate noise and to remove water from the container to the lift tube;

a ramp to support a stream of flowing water as it moves from the lift tube to the container wherein said ramp includes a top and a bottom and spaced apart sides and having a flat center portion disposed between said sides to support a stream of flowing water; and

a ledge attached to said lift tube having a curved lip and a curved cross-section wherein said curved lip creates a thick and smooth water flow upon exiting the lift tube to reduce noise and splashing and said curved cross section directs the stream of flowing water onto the flat center portion of said curved ramp to prevent splashing and noise as the water flows downward on said ramp.

Q18 21. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing as in claim 20, wherein said lower container includes a forward container and a rear container, said forward container having an open top to allow pets to drink from said forward container and said rear container being enclosed for maintaining said pump spaced apart from said forward container, wherein said pump is a submersible pump whereby the pump suction port is submerged to reduce noise.

Q19 26. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing as in claim 23, wherein the upper reservoir comprises an overflow drain to direct excess water from said upper reservoir to said lower container to prevent the upper reservoir from overflowing.

Q10 29. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing as in claim 20, wherein a removable and portable storage reservoir is attached to said container for holding water comprising a valve having an open position and a closed position wherein said valve is in the closed position when not installed on the continuous watering device so as to prevent water

from leaking while said storage reservoir is being transported and said valve is in the open position when installed on the continuous watering device so as to continuously replenish and maintain a minimum water level in said container when water loss results from evaporation or drinking by pets.

30. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise and splashing, comprising:

a container for holding water wherein said container includes a forward water container and a rear water container, wherein said forward water container has an open top to allow pets to drink from said forward water container;

said forward water container being spaced apart from said rear water container;

a lift tube to transport water from said container;

a pump submerged under the water in said rear water container to eliminate noise while said pump removes water from said container to the lift tube;

a ramp to support a stream of flowing water as the water moves from said lift tube to said forward water container; and

a ledge connecting said lift tube with said ramp to direct water onto said ramp to prevent splashing and noise as the water flows downward on said ramp.

31. (Amended) A continuous watering device for small pets producing minimal noise comprising:

a container for holding a volume of water to permit pets to drink therefrom, said container including a forward container and a rear container wherein said forward container has an open top to allow the pets to drink therefrom;

said forward water container being spaced apart from said rear water container;

a submersible pump for circulating water located inside said container and being disposed within said rear container wherein said submersible pump is completely submerged by said volume of water to maintain silent operation; and

a storage reservoir for holding water wherein said storage reservoir automatically deposits water into said container to maintain a constant volume of water so that the submersible pump remains submerged when pets drink from the container or when water is lost from evaporation.

32. Cancel claim 32.